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PTO/SB/01 (12-87)  
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<b>DECLARATION FOR UTILITY DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing OR <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted: Filing (surrogate) (37 CFR 1.63) required	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	A03517
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Mario Litsche
	<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>	
	<b>Application Number</b>	09/994,742
	<b>Filing Date</b>	November 28, 2001
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	3722
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	unknown

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:  
My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.  
I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**BINDING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

the specification of which (Title of the Invention)  
☐ is attached hereto  
OR  
☒ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) **November 28, 2001** as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number **09/994,742** and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
01126528.7	European Patent Office	11/13/2001	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10059344.5	Germany	11/29/2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10141811.6	Germany	08/27/2001	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

☐ Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

(Page 1 of 2)

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## DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below	
Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Kevin L. Leffel	37,379	John L. Wood	32,183
James A. Cairns	32,557	Richard A. Romanchik	33,766

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle if any)		Family Name or Surname	
Mario		Litsche	
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ZIP			
Country	Germany		

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto